

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for facilitating selection of a product for an electrical distribution and control system using a network-based system including a server and at least one device connected to the server via a network, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving product specification information from a user via the device;

comparing the received product specification information with pre-stored product information;

determining whether a portion of the received product specification information is compatible with remaining portions of the received product specification information;

providing stored information regarding upgrades of the product on determining that the portion is incompatible with the remaining portions;

prompting the user to provide a type of load configured to couple to the product;

selecting at least one product which matches the received product specification information; and

downloading information related to the selected product.

2. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the product is a transformer.

3. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 2 wherein the transformer is a core and coil transformer.

4. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving product specification information comprises the step of receiving features information for the product.

5. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said step of receiving product specification information comprises the step of receiving transformer information including at least one of a coil material and an electrostatic shield.

6. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 5 wherein said step of comparing the received product specification information comprises the steps of:

determining whether the coil material selected is available for a selected transformer configuration; and

displaying a message if the selected coil material is not available for the selected transformer configuration.

7. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 5 wherein said step of comparing the received product specification information comprises the steps of:

determining whether the electrostatic shield is suggested for use with a selected transformer configuration; and

displaying a message if the electrostatic shield is not selected and if the electrostatic shield is suggested.

8. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving product specification information from a user further comprises the step of receiving an identification of accessories for the product.

9. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said step of downloading information related to the selected product comprises the step of downloading at least one of features selected for the product and accessories selected for the product.

10. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said step of downloading information related to the selected product comprises the step of

downloading a catalog number and list price for the selected product and generating a quotation for the selected product.

11. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the product specification information is received from the user via a graphical user interface.

12. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising the step of assessing a need of the user based on at least one of a product application, product parameters, desired product features, and product accessories.

13. (canceled)

14. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 12 further comprising the step of guiding the user, on determining that the portion is incompatible with the remaining portions, to a correct product configuration.

15. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 12 further comprising the step of guiding the user to a compatible product.

16. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving product specification information from a user via the device comprises the step of receiving at least one of industrial, commercial, and residential product specification information from the user.

17. (currently amended) A system for facilitating selection of a component for an electrical distribution and control product, said system comprising:

a device; and

a server connected to said device and configured to:

receive component information data from a user via said device, the received component information data including at least one of a feature of the component and an accessory of the component;

determine whether a portion of the received component information data is compatible with remaining portions of the received component information data;

provide information regarding upgrades of the ~~electrical distribution and control product~~component on determining that the portion is incompatible with the remaining ~~portions; and~~portions;

prompt the user to provide a type of load configured to couple to the component; and

identify stored component information data that matches the received component information data entered by the user.

18. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein the component is a transformer.

19. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein the transformer is a core and coil transformer.

20. (previously presented) A system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said server further configured to select at least one component from the stored component information data which matches the received component information data entered by the user.

21. (currently amended) A system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said server further configured to download to the user information related to the ~~selected~~ component.

22. (previously presented) A system in accordance with Claim 18 wherein said server further configured to select at least one transformer that includes at least one of a coil material and an electrostatic shield.

23. (previously presented) A system in accordance with Claim 22 wherein said server further configured to:

determine whether the coil material selected is available for a selected transformer configuration; and

display a message if the selected coil material is not available for the selected transformer configuration.

24. (previously presented) A system in accordance with Claim 22 wherein said server further configured to:

determine whether the electrostatic shield is suggested for use with a selected transformer configuration; and

display a message, if the electrostatic shield is not selected and if the electrostatic shield is suggested.

25. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said server further configured to generate a quotation for each selected component.

26. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said server further configured to accept a purchase order for the component after the purchase order has been authenticated against pre-determined criteria.

27. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said device configured to be a server for a network of customer devices.

28. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said server and said device are connected via at least one of a wide area network, a local area network and the Internet.

29. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said server further configured to receive at least one of industrial, commercial, and residential product specification information from the user.

30. (currently amended) A computer programmed to:

prompt a user to select a component of an electrical distribution and control product;

prompt the user to provide information required to generate a component recommendation for the product;

prompt the user to provide at least one of an amount of efficiency provided by and an amount of noise generated by an application of the component;

determine whether a portion of the user provided information is compatible with remaining portions of the user provided information;

instruct to display a message that the portion is incompatible with the remaining ~~portion~~portions on determining that the portion is incompatible with the remaining portions; and

generate the recommendation using the user provided information.

31. (original) A computer in accordance with Claim 30 wherein to prompt a user to select a component, said computer displays a computer generated screen listing a plurality of at least one of features, accessories, applications, and options.

32. (currently amended) A computer in accordance with Claim 30 wherein to prompt a user to provide information required to generate a ~~component~~ recommendation, said computer displays a computer generated screen listing a plurality of information boxes.

33. (original) A computer in accordance with Claim 32 further programmed to search a database to identify components which match criteria supplied by the user in response to prompting the user to provide information required to generate the recommendation and to display to the user at least some information relating to at least some of the components identified as a match from the database search.

34. (currently amended) A computer in accordance with Claim 33 further programmed to prompt the user to select at least one of the identified components, and wherein to generate the ~~component~~ recommendation, said computer populates the document with data related to the at least one of the identified components.

35. (canceled)

36. (currently amended) Apparatus comprising:

means for prompting a user to select a component for an electrical distribution and control product;

means for prompting the user to provide information regarding the selected component;

means for prompting the user to provide at least one of an amount of efficiency provided by and an amount of noise generated by an application of the component;

means for determining whether a portion of the information is compatible with remaining portions of the information;

means for displaying a message that the portion is incompatible with the remaining portion on determining that the portion is incompatible with the remaining portions; and

means for transmitting to the user a recommendation for a particular component.

37. (original) Apparatus in accordance with Claim 36 wherein said means for prompting a user to select a component comprises means for displaying a computer generated screen listing a plurality of component selections.

38. (original) Apparatus in accordance with Claim 36 wherein said component comprises a transformer.

39. (previously presented) Apparatus in accordance with Claim 36 wherein said means for prompting the user to provide information comprises means for displaying a computer generated screen listing at least one of features, application, accessories, and options.

40. (currently amended) Apparatus in accordance with Claim 36 further comprising means for searching a database to identify components which match criteria supplied by the user in response to prompting the user to provide information regarding the selected ~~components~~component and means for displaying to the user at least some information relating to at least some of the components identified from the database search.

41. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising selecting one of an indoor use and an outdoor use of the product.

42. (previously presented) A system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said server is further configured to enable to select one of an indoor use and an outdoor use of the component.

43. (previously presented) A computer in accordance with Claim 30 further programmed to enable a selection of one of an indoor use and an outdoor use of the component.

44. (previously presented) Apparatus in accordance with Claim 36 further comprising a means for selecting one of an indoor use and an outdoor use of the component.